GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2606
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
TELEPHONE USERS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide gap in the ratio of telephone users in rural areas, urban areas and metro cities;

(b) if so, the ratio of telephone users in rural areas, metro cities and rest of the cities; and

(c) the reasons for this difference?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ratio of Telephone users (Teledensity) in rural areas, Metro cities and rest of the cities as on 31.3.2001 is given below:

Rural areas	Metro Cities	Urban areas (Rest of the cities)
0.93	15.85	10.16

(c) Following are the reasons for the difference:

(i) Affordability by the people.

(ii) Necessity of phone.

(iii) Uneven population density.

(iv) Business and commercial interests.

(v) Lack of other infrastructure facilities like Roads and Power etc. in rural areas.

(vi) High capital investment involved and high operating costs.

(vii) Low return on capital costs.

(viii) Network implementation time is more in rural areas.